



## **News Release**

**For Immediate Release:**  
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### **AIDS Activists to Display 8,500 Pairs of Shoes Symbolizing Diseases' Daily Death Toll**

**(Salt Lake City, UT)** — Concerned citizens from all over Utah will kick off Utah's participation in the national Campaign to End AIDS (C2EA) October 22 by setting up 8,500 pairs of shoes in Salt Lake City's Library Square representing the number of people who die each day across the world from the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The shoes will be displayed from 12 noon to 6:30 p.m., concluding with a rally welcoming a caravan of individuals taking part in the Campaign to End AIDS. Simultaneously, eight other caravans of people with HIV/AIDS and their supporters will wind their way through the nation by car, train, plane, and even by foot to bring attention to the continued need to fight against AIDS.

Utahns are invited to join local HIV/AIDS activists and state legislators October 22 to remember those Utahns affected by HIV/AIDS. Since 1981, over 4,000 Utahns have been infected with HIV, and more than 1,000 have passed away.

"Now more than ever, we need to show we care about our fellow Utahns," said Aaron C. Garrett, Health Program Specialist, HIV Prevention Program, Utah Department of Health. "Too many times these people are forgotten. This event is a chance to remember that AIDS is a disease that affects thousands of people here in Utah, and tens of millions around the globe."

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Daily Death Toll**

Speaking at the event will be Utah State Senator Scott McCoy, Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, and Stuart Merrill, a local HIV/AIDS activist.

Anyone wanting to donate shoes for the event may take them to Library Square during the event. The shoes will be donated to various charitable organizations.

The Campaign unites a broad spectrum of local organizations, including: Comunidades Unidas Utah, Equality Utah, GLBT Community Center, Harm Reduction, People with AIDS Coalition of Utah, Stonewall Democrats, Utah AIDS Foundation and multiple local religious and political leaders.

For more information about the event, please visit:

[http://health.utah.gov/els/hivaids/prevention/hiv\\_prev.htm](http://health.utah.gov/els/hivaids/prevention/hiv_prev.htm)

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*The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.*